

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

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R 171400Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7635

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DEPARTMENT FOR L, ARA, AND PEACE CORPS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EC

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO US-GOE AGREEMENT ON THE PEACE CORPS

1. ALTHOUGH FOR 13 YEARS, THE EMBASSY HAS ROUTINELY REQUESTED AND BEEN AUTHORIZED DUTY-FREE ENTRY FOR PERSONAL VEHICLES BELONGING TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE PEACE CORPS AND AMERICAN MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF, A NEW SUB-DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL BELIEVES THAT SUFFICIENT AMBIGUITY EXISTS IN THE WORDING OF THE PEACE CORPS AGREEMENT WITH ECUADOR TO WARRANT CLARIFICATION OF THE PASSAGE IN QUESTION.

2. THE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL OF PROTOCOL AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SUGGESTS THAT THE EMBASSY PROPOSE SUCH A CLARIFICATION BY MEANS OF AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES WHICH, UPON ACCEPTANCE BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, WOULD FORMALLY APPROVE THE 13-YEAR-OLD PRACTICE OF ALLOWING DUTY-FREE ENTRY FOR THE PERSONAL VEHICLES OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE PEACE CORPS AND AMERICAN MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF. WE HAVE TWO SUCH CASES PENDING: THE SALE OF ED DEJARNETTE'S VEHICLE (DEJARNETTE DEPARTED FIVE MONTHS AGO), AND ACTING DIRECTOR GEORGE BALDINO'S CAR.

3. EMBASSY REQUESTS PERMISSION TO SEND A THIRD PERSON NOTE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY PROPOSING THE ADDITION OF THE WORDS "INCLUDING PERSONAL VEHICLES" IN THE THIRD SENTENCE OF THE FOURTH PARAGRAPH OF THE AGREEMENT OF AUGUST 3, 1962, ASKING THAT "THIS NOTE, AND THE REPLY

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TO IT FROM THE MINISTRY, SHALL CONSTITUTE AN UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN ECUADOR AND THE U.S. A. CONCERNING THE AMENDMENT OF PARAGRAPH FOUR OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES OF AUGUST 3, 1962. AS A CLARIFICATION OF THE AGREEMENT, THE EFFECTIVENESS AND DURATION OF THIS AMENDMENT SHALL BE THE SAME AS THAT OF THE AGREEMENT ITSELF."

4. THE SENTENCE IN QUESTION WOULD THEN READ "THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR WILL ACCORD THE PEACE CORPS REPRESENTATIVE AND HIS STAFF THE SAME TREATMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE PAYMENT OF CUSTOMS' DUTIES OR OTHER CHARGES ON PERSONAL PROPERTY, INCLUDING PERSONAL VEHICLES, INTRODUCED INTO ECUADOR FOR THEIR OWN USE AS IS ACCORDED TO DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL OF COMPARABLE RANK OR GRADE OF THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA."

5. IN VIEW OF THE TWO CASES THE EMBASSY CURRENTLY HAS PENDING BEFORE THE MINISTRY, REQUEST EXPEDITIOUS APPROVAL.
BREWSTER

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